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Fall 2000

### Profile: 40 1960 UMM 90 1910 WCSA

University Relations

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# Profile

Commemorative Issue

Celebrating the 40th year of the Morris campus and the  
90th anniversary of the West Central School of Agriculture

News Magazine for Alumni, Parents, and Friends of the University of Minnesota, Morris

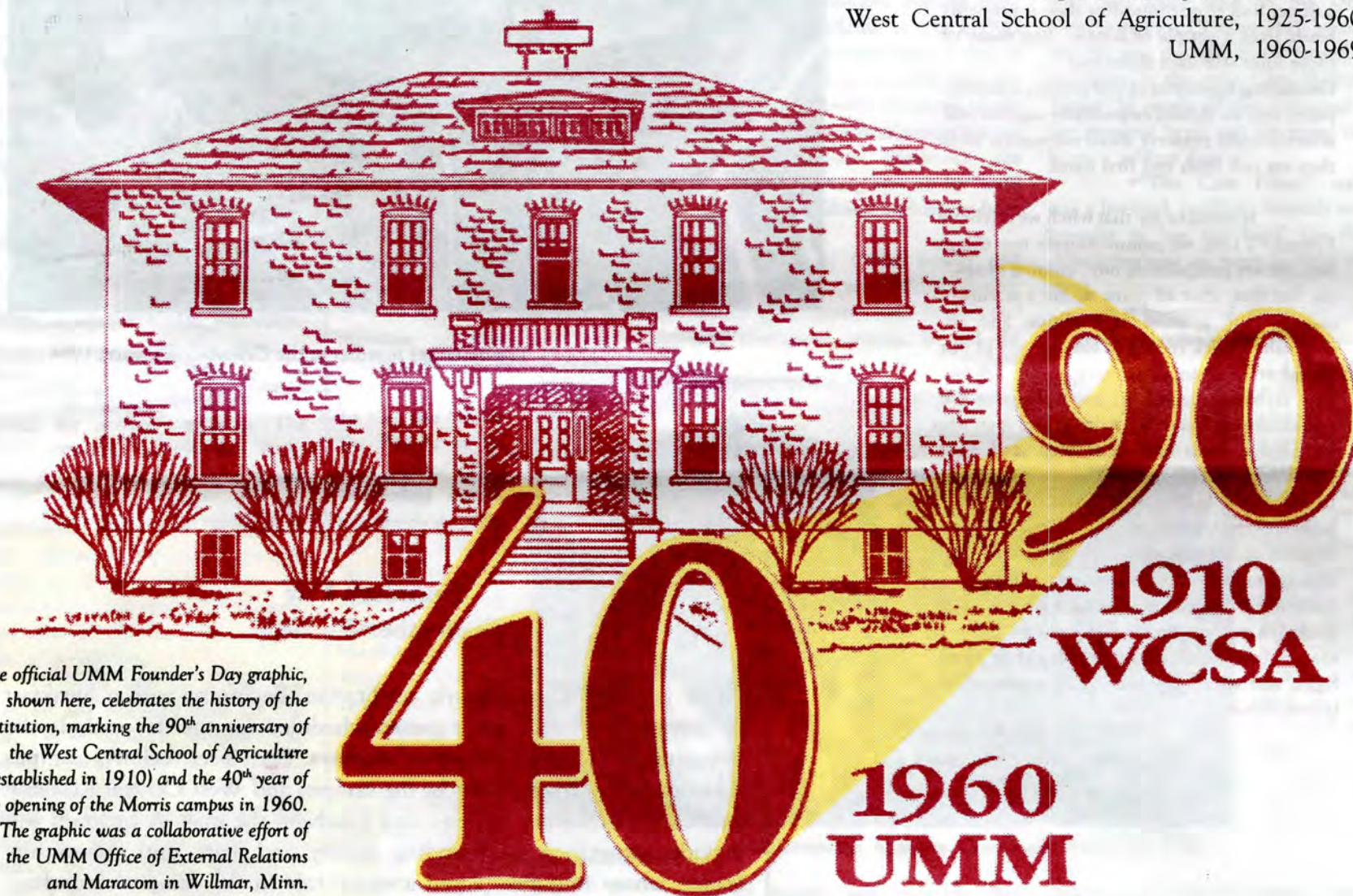
University of Minnesota, Morris

Volume V, Edition 1, Fall 2000

Oh, let that quiet spirit still prevail  
As onward on its course the college keeps,  
Onward the course of education sweeps!  
Could we but judge, our brief rehearsal done;  
West Central's glory and the college dream are one.

T.S. Long

English and Speech Instructor,  
West Central School of Agriculture, 1925-1960  
UMM, 1960-1969



The official UMM Founder's Day graphic, shown here, celebrates the history of the institution, marking the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the West Central School of Agriculture (established in 1910) and the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the opening of the Morris campus in 1960.

The graphic was a collaborative effort of the UMM Office of External Relations and Maracom in Willmar, Minn.

The building represents a sketch of the Minority Resource Center, formerly the WCSA Music Hall, and, prior to that, the Morris Indian School Boys' Dormitory. The oldest structure on the campus, it was constructed in 1899 as part of a building program instituted shortly after the federal government took over the jurisdiction of the Morris Industrial School for Indians in 1897 from the Sisters of Mercy who had operated the school since 1887. The Minority Resource Center was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 because of its significance to the history of Indian education in the state.

**We dedicate this issue** ...and our yearlong celebration to the "glory and dream" that created the WCSA and UMM.

**We invite you** ...to share with us in this historic and memorable year.

**You are invited to** ...The Inauguration of Chancellor Sam Schuman • September 7  
~ see story on page two

**Come back again** ...for a Founder's Day celebration • September 26  
~ see story on page two

**Don't miss** ...your Homecoming events • October 6-8  
~ see list of events on page six





Mother Mary Joseph Lynch arrived in Morris in 1885 with the primary goal to establish an industrial boarding school for Indian children. (On the site of the present Morris campus) she opened her Indian Industrial school in 1887 with a dozen students from the Sisseton and Rosebud reservations of South Dakota. By 1893, Mother Joseph, 24 sisters and one hired man were educating 103 children on a 220-acre complex.  
-Saint Cloud Visitor, April 27, 1989

Institutions in their infancy rarely think they need to celebrate their "founder's day." After all, if everyone at the place remembers its creation, or at least most do, there's little motivation to document or commemorate origins. But UMM is now 40 years old, and most of us on campus or living in the nearby community today were not here when the West Central School of Agriculture became a campus of the University of Minnesota. In fact, as we enter our fifth decade, the number of individuals at the college, or in Morris, with a direct link to our founding days is probably fewer than a couple of dozen. But many of those folks still have sharp and fascinating memories of our earliest academic years, and we should respectfully capture and affectionately preserve those memories, while they are still fresh and first hand.

It seems to me that when we celebrate Founder's Day, we commemorate two things: first, we are proclaiming our "coming of age," the fact that, after 40 years, we are a mature college, with a sense of tradition and an established track record of consistency in our liberal arts mission: we have grown up; we have arrived. Second, we pay homage to the remarkable vision of the women and men who founded us: our earliest faculty, staff and students; local citizens; legislators; our predecessors at the Indian School and the WCSA; leaders of the University of Minnesota. Those creators of this college had the breathtakingly courageous conviction that a top quality public institution devoted to liberal learning belonged in rural west central Minnesota. So, we are celebrating this year because they were right, and what they founded has proven of lasting value.

-Sam Schuman  
UMM Chancellor

Chancellor Sam Schuman is the fourth chancellor to lead the Morris campus since its founding. Throughout the watch of each of its preceding leaders - Rodney Briggs, John Imholte, and David Johnson - and now, under the leadership of Samuel Schuman, the campus has held steadfast to its liberal arts mission.

Sam Schuman came to UMM in 1995 as the chief academic officer. In 1998, he became interim chancellor, and he was appointed chancellor in March 2000. Schuman holds a bachelor's degree from Grinnell College, a master's (with honors) from San Francisco State University and a doctorate from Northwestern University. A student and teacher of English literature, Schuman is the author of four scholarly books and several dozen articles on British Renaissance Drama and on the 20th century author, Vladimir Nabokov. He is the past president of the National Collegiate Honors Council and of the International Vladimir Nabokov Society. He is married to Nancy Schuman, a fellow Grinnell graduate who is a clinical social worker. They have two children: Daniel, who teaches philosophy, and Leah, a musician.

**We invite you to join us during the Inaugural ceremony for Chancellor Schuman, to be held at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, on the campus Mall.**

The Inauguration, an academic ceremony during which Chancellor Schuman will be formally charged with his duties as Chancellor and presented with a Chancellorial medallion, will be attended by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, dignitaries from the University of Minnesota and other colleges and universities, political leaders and other friends of the Morris campus.



Freshmen get together at the Orientation Dance, 1964

## Founder's Day September 26, 2000

Please join us for this historic celebration. Beginning with a breakfast in downtown Morris, other events scheduled for the day include the unveiling of historical campus markers (see inset below), campus memory walks, driving tours of the campus and West Central Research and Outreach Center gardens, and lunch on the mall. A program will include recognition of founding faculty and staff, and community leaders whose initiative played a major role in the campus' founding.

For more information regarding Founder's Day activities, call Maggie Dylla, Special Events Coordinator, (320) 589-6053.

A group of campus staff and faculty are working on the development of several heritage markers to document some of the significant events in the campus' history.

Initially, two markers, which will focus on the early development of the campus and the establishment of UMM as a public liberal arts campus, will be located on the campus mall.

Each sign will have text and pictures to help tell the story of the campus' evolution. The markers are scheduled to be in place for special events surrounding the Morris campus' 40th and the WCSA's 90th celebrations beginning this fall.



Conversion of state agricultural schools at Morris and Crookston into complete four-year branches of the University of Minnesota was recommended today by a legislative interim commission meeting in the Capitol. The proposal was made by Sen. Fred W. Behmler of Morris, chairman of the commission on agricultural schools.  
-St. Paul Pioneer Press, May 8, 1958



**UMM Band, circa 1960-61** When Dr. Williams heard that the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Marching Band was getting new uniforms, he "procured" their old uniforms for the UMM band.

## Music Memories, 1960-1961/Dr. Ralph Williams, Professor Emeritus, Music

My first responsibility after meeting Dr. Rodney Briggs in May 1960 was to organize a choir and band. I was the only music faculty member the first year. I decided on my own to also organize a men's chorus and orchestra. The orchestra included string players from throughout western Minnesota. Daisy Hansen, a former member of the Duluth Symphony, was concert master. Most of the rest of the string players had played in college orchestras. As the student body grew, we added a number of accomplished string players from Twin Cities high schools.

After I was handed the keys to the music building, I was free to proceed as I saw fit.

A number of instrumental and vocal ensembles were organized. Since it is important to have excellent piano accompanists, we were fortunate

to have two accompanists who actually were seniors at the Morris High School. Both of them attended UMM for four years - Kay Joranger Carlson (Kay is a current member of the UMM music faculty) and LeeAnn Hruby Erickson.

There were 37 UMM students in the band. To that were added about 10 outstanding high school seniors from bands in west central Minnesota.

Dr. James "Doc" Carlson, who is currently music coordinator and jazz ensembles director at UMM, was one of the high school seniors from Glenwood who was a band member.

In fall 1961, as more music courses and faculty were added, Dr. Clyde Johnson took over the band. (Dr. Johnson retired from the UMM music faculty in 1999.)

Students in the choir of the School of Agriculture before its closing also participate in the mass choir, which included the UMM Choir and Men's Chorus, accompanied by the orchestra.

Editor's Note: Dr. Williams composed the words and music to the "UMM Hymn," and the "UMM Fight Song" (whose words are written below):

*Fight! Fight! Fight for Morris U!  
Hike! Hike! Hike a score or two;  
Minnesota, wave high her banner,  
O\_\_\_fight! with might, Morris,  
Minnesota.*



**Robinson Abbott, 1969**

## A Flight to Morris/Dr. Robinson Abbott, Professor Emeritus, Biology

Dean Briggs called me and said they were starting a new campus of the University of Minnesota in Morris. "How would you like to come out and be a part of this great undertaking?" he asked.

My wife (Rose Marie) is from Chaska. But she had never been to Morris. They told us it was on the Pomme de Terre River.

I came out alone to interview for the job. Jay Roshal, another biologist at UMM, picked me up at the airport. He was wearing a leather flight jacket, and at first, I thought he was the pilot who would fly me out to Morris. But we drove instead. There was no interstate at that time, and Highways 55 and 28 were under repair. We took all kinds of back roads and detours, so by the time we got to Morris, I thought I was at the end of the earth.



Thanks to your generosity, over \$5 million has been committed through Campaign Minnesota to UMM scholarships, faculty and staff support, and other important areas of campus life.

For more information on how you can become a part of Campaign Minnesota, contact the Office of External Relations, (320) 589-6386.

- Founding Faculty (1960-61):**
- Rodney Briggs  
Provost
  - Richard Burkey  
Physics
  - Herbert Croom  
Career Planning & Placement Service
  - Glen Daniels  
Physical Education
  - Mildred Gausman  
Math
  - Stephen Granger  
Student Affairs
  - Don Gray  
Library
  - James Gremmels  
English
  - John Heald  
Languages
  - John Imholte  
History
  - Clyde Johnson  
Music
  - Ted Long  
English/Spch Comm
  - Bruce Nord  
Sociology/Anthropology
  - James Olson  
Chemistry
  - Fred Peterson  
Studio Art/Art History
  - Jay Roshal  
Biology
  - Judith Schradle  
Physical Education
  - W. Donald Spring  
English
  - Ralph Williams  
Music
- Founding Staff (Venture, 1964):**
- Vernard Brown  
Senior Building Caretaker
  - Mary Collins  
Elise Heald  
Bookstore
  - Rosella Dambow, Elaine Larson, Mary Giese, Mary Wallace, Margaret Krueger, Eleanor Peterson, Edna Handruff, Clara Westrom, Phyllis Dyer, Evelyn Peterson,
  - Lillian Erdahl  
Food Service
  - Mavis Drange  
Shirley Richards  
Carla Nelson  
Renee Koroshec  
Records Office
  - Keith Fischer  
Karen Carlson  
Lois Norby  
Martha Eul  
Rita Aschman  
Kathleen DeCamp  
Business Office
  - Jan Fredlund  
Physical Education
  - Thelma Gilbert  
Counseling
  - Lois Hogander  
Science
  - Martin Hoium  
Edson Hall Janitor
  - Emilie Howey  
Social Science
  - Charles Jones  
Patrolman
  - Kathy Kloos  
Dean's Office
  - Marty Kroening  
University Relations
  - Liz Mathison  
Education
  - Carmine Russell  
Humanities
  - Lois Summer  
Assistant Dean's Office
  - Shirley Swenson  
Nurse
  - Sue Thomas  
Housing
  - Margaret Thompson  
Admissions

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the names above, please accept our apology for omissions or other errors.





The first graduation exercises at the University of Minnesota, Morris were held on Monday, June 15, 1964, at 8:30 p.m. "We have reached the focal point of our hopes and plans as we approach our first graduation exercises. We will now commence to build upon the tradition of the University of Minnesota Morris."  
-Dean Rodney A. Briggs (The Vanguard, June 1964)

As I prepare for my final year at UMM and the completion of the requirements for my English education degree, I remember teachers throughout my educational career that have influenced and inspired me. Similarly, as UMM anticipates the celebration of its 40th birthday, we as an institution honor individuals whose contributions shaped our past and can launch us into our fifth decade. While researching UMM's history for my summer internship, one person's story stood out as both inspiring to me as a future teacher and inspiring to UMM as an ever-changing institution. Theodore S. Long, an English and speech instructor at the West Central School of Agriculture from 1925-1960 and at UMM from 1960-1969, was an educator who achieved the rare but necessary balance between adherence to teaching goals and adaptability to changing trends in education.

The *Moccasin*, the yearbook of WCSA, marks January 31, 1925, as the day that Ted Long began his 45-year teaching career in Morris. Comments in the yearbooks about Long suggest his students viewed him as a dedicated but demanding teacher.

The 1934 *Moccasin* jokingly asks, "Do you know of Mr. Long letting English out before the bell?" Similarly, a yearbook from 1928 includes a conversation between two students in which Florence tells a classmate she did not write her essay in red ink, but rather that the paper her friend is looking at is "one that Mr. Long corrected."

Barbara Gunderson Stowe, a 1972 UMM graduate who lived with her Uncle Ted during her time at UMM, recalls that Long was "incredibly conscientious" and would read a student's paper three times before grading it. Stowe also remembers that her uncle was "legendary for including spelling tests in his classes long after the students thought this was a useful expenditure of their time. He always suggested that when students started passing his spelling tests he would stop giving them." Long wanted to help his students understand and appreciate English, even if that meant he was on the receiving end of some jokes in the WCSA yearbooks.

Long also sought to provide his students with learning experiences outside the classroom walls. Throughout his career, Long coached the debate and declamation teams and directed numerous class plays. Included in a list of "inconceivable situations" in the 1931 *Moccasin* is "Mr. Long not interested in debate." In *A History of The West Central School of Agriculture*, an unidentified former student writes, "the debate and declamation were very important extracurricular activities in our school days. Mr. Long was our coach and we were good. We were worthy opponents and won many honors in this field." The time Long spent supervising speech and theater activities was not wasted; that a former student chose to record the experience in a commemorative booklet suggests both the learning and fun that occurred within the groups Long coached.

In addition to revealing his extraordinary influence as a teacher, yearbooks and interviews also expose Long's dynamic personality. First, Long seems to have enjoyed humor. The 1929 *Moccasin* "cannot imagine Mr. Long without his jokes in English class" and another yearbook documents his humorous reprimanding of a student who failed to successfully memorize a passage from Shakespeare's *MacBeth*:

Alene: "and then is heard no more. This is told by an idiot. This—this is told by an idiot!"

Mr. Long: "Too bad you have to give yourself away like that, Alene."

Long's personality also comes through in accounts of his courtship of Tone Halvorson, a home economics teacher. Ted courted Tone by taking her for rides in his Model T. Coupe and by writing her poetry. According to Stowe, the poems, signed by "the backwoods philosopher," usually featured "a young lad leaving his office at night and seeing the light still on in the Home Economics headquarters." Happily, the campus romance resulted in a September 1, 1937, marriage ceremony. Long's other interests included music and the outdoors, evidenced by Ted's musical performances and the sacrifices Ted and Tone made in order to retire to Long Lake in Ted's hometown of Park Rapids, Minnesota.

One of Long's primary passions was his work at WCSA and the school itself. When the phasing out of WCSA and the opening of UMM was announced, Long recorded his feelings in a poem titled "There Is A Quiet Spirit." The final stanza of the poem captures Long's



Ted Long

devotion to education despite its changing focus:

Oh, let that quiet spirit still prevail  
As onward on its course the college keeps,  
Onward the course of education sweeps!  
Could we but judge, our brief rehearsal done;  
West Central's glory and the college dream are one.

Though witnessing the end of the school at which he had taught for 35 years was undoubtedly difficult, Long recognized that students' needs change and that an educational institution must change to meet those needs. As a 1924 Carleton College graduate, Ted saw the value of a liberal arts education and supported UMM the remainder of his life. He became a member of UMM's founding faculty, was mace bearer for UMM's first commencement in 1964, and returned to UMM for numerous reunions, Jazz Festivals, and graduation ceremonies after his retirement in 1969.

Memorable because of his influential teaching style, dynamic personality, and fierce devotion to WCSA and UMM, Theodore S. Long achieved something rare—an understanding that education is a balance of stability and adaptability.

As I begin my final steps toward a career in education, the career of a man I have never met will inspire me to challenge my students in the classroom, provide my students opportunities to learn outside the classroom, and develop a strong sense of pride in the school at which I teach.

As UMM celebrates its 40th year and begins its fifth decade, may we all remember Ted Long and what he represented: dedication to education and adaptation to change in a continually evolving institution.

- Jenny Jones '01, Hibbing, Minnesota

Jenny Jones is one of two summer interns working on a UMM history pamphlet that will celebrate UMM's 40th birthday, commemorate WCSA's 90th anniversary, and recognize the school's beginning as an American Indian Boarding School. (The other intern is James Horsman who wrote the story which appears on page five.) Jenny graduated from Hibbing High School in 1996, where she was captain of the speech team. Jenny will graduate from UMM in May 2001 with an English major, a speech communication minor, and a secondary education teaching license. As a freshman, Jenny helped start the UMM Intercollegiate Speech Team. After graduation, she plans to teach English and speech, and coach a speech team.



The Moccasin Board of 1946 first recognized a new feature in the student life on campus, "Good Manners Week." The subject was first presented to the students by a little two-act play depicting a few of the acts of omissions and commissions of good manners. The week following was declared Good Manners Week. At the end of the week an election was conducted to select the boys and girls in each class who were held in the highest esteem for their good manners.

-Moccasin Yearbook, 1946



## WCSA: SHARING KNOWLEDGE WITH THE WORLD

"Feed the World—Attend the West Central School of Agriculture" proclaims an early WCSA poster. As the West Central School of Agriculture's name suggests, one may assume that the school educated the youths of west central Minnesota in such skills as canning and calf breeding. It certainly did that and much more. One can show numerous examples of how WCSA alumni have indeed fed the world...but that's another story. Upon closer examination, one finds that the education of students at the WCSA reached far beyond the confines of west central Minnesota.

My first clue came while researching yearbooks—marvelous archives of school life. The 1925 Moccasin caught my attention. In this issue, African-American male students appear in four photos. As a social science student, I was intrigued. Inquiry revealed that a small community of African-American families lived near Fergus Falls during the 1920s. The easiest explanation was that the WCSA students came from that area. While this made sense, the photos were unidentified, and the Fergus Falls theory couldn't be proven. I set out to find the names of the people in the photos by calling WCSA students enrolled during the 1924

-1925 school year. After calling across Minnesota and the Midwest, to nearly the last name on the list, I finally found a 1926 alumnus in Chokio who remembered the name Randle. I located the student's record at the



Paul Randle (center)

West Central Research

and Outreach Center. What I learned was remarkable.

### The Mississippi Connection

Paul Randle was born August 8, 1905, in Piney, Miss. Randle had lifetime farm experience and two years of high school education at a predominantly African-American agricultural high school called Piney Woods, still in operation today, near Braxton, Miss. He entered the WCSA on October 14, 1924, and took courses in gas engines, woodwork, clarinet, violin and orchestra in addition to the typical course schedule.

After leaving the WCSA, Randle led a remarkable life. He made his home in Springfield, Ohio, worked as a materials handler at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base, was a member of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and played in the Piney Bradshaw Orchestra. Eric Jones, Randle's grandson, also of Springfield, remembers Randle as a gangly, athletic man who loved baseball, music, and performing on his trumpet. Kevin Jones, Randle's oldest grandson from Wilmington, N. C., a retired marine gunnery sergeant, said "My grandfather was very modest." Though he spoke little of his accomplishments, Jones does recall his grandfather playing with big band conductor, Tommy Dorsey. Randle passed away on October 9, 1986.

Richard Williams was another African-American student who attended the WCSA during the 1924-1925 school year. According to WCSA records, he was born in January 1906 in Gulfport, Miss. Williams entered the WCSA on September 29, 1924, with six years of farm experience. He took courses like milk testing, electricity, and trombone besides the regular course schedule, and participated in the Vincent Literary Society and the Engineer's Club. Since William's birth date is not indicated on his records, matching his name with persons, either living or deceased, to find further information was difficult.

How did the two students from Mississippi learn of the WCSA? Bert Ahern, UMM professor of history, has researched minority experiences in history. He theorizes that Randle and Williams came to Morris through a faculty connection between the Piney Woods School and the WCSA. Ahern notes that African-American males in rural Mississippi during the 1920s faced intense racism and were often unable to escape their circumstance through a cruel system of sharecropping. "The Piney Woods School was an exception," Ahern says. It offered African-Americans an escape through education. In the case of Randle and Williams,

escape may have come via admission to the WCSA.

### From Asia to Morris

There are other examples of how students from far beyond west central Minnesota sought out a WCSA education. A July 6, 1945, letter from A.J. Schwantes, chief of the agricultural engineering division at the U of M's St. Paul campus, informed leaders of the three coordinate campuses that five Chinese graduate students wished to spend time learning on American farms. All had bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering and came to the U.S. on International Harvester Scholarships for training in agricultural engineering. Theodore Fenske, WCSA superintendent, accepted two of the Chinese students for the summer. They arrived in mid-July and stayed until mid-September of 1945. Ding-lei Tao, born in 1920 in Huangkong, China, graduated from National Southwest Associated University in 1942. Teh-chu Tseng, born in 1919 in Chusan, China, graduated from National Central University, in 1942. Correspondence between Fenske and Schwantes indicates that the students received training in general farm experience, including machinery operation.

In 1946, two more Chinese students spent the summer at the WCSA. This time, the students gained experience in the dairy barn as well as general farm operation. "I enjoyed my experience very much this summer and learned a lot [on] the farm," said Sheng-tsu in a note to Superintendent Fenske. A third group of international students studied at the WCSA during the summer of 1947. S.K. Paul and B.C. Bagchi were graduate students from India who came to Morris in July after attending the American Society of Agricultural Engineers convention in Philadelphia. Like the Chinese students before them, the WCSA afforded them the opportunity to study American farming practices first-hand.

The times at which these Chinese and Indian students came to the WCSA were filled with great change. The food supply system for much of the world had been ravaged by World War II. The Marshall Plan was one form of relief created to meet Europe's agricultural needs. As the International Harvester scholarships demonstrate, studying American farming procedures was also valuable to foreign

students. According to Ahern, the presence of international students at the St. Paul campus during this era indicates that the administration was "supportive in bringing international students, especially from Asia, to do graduate work" in this country. The WCSA became part of a global process by allowing these students hands-on experiences in Morris.

### The WCSA and UMM

The WCSA did not enjoy the level of multicultural experiences that UMM does today. Even so, the WCSA was populated by a student body, faculty, and administration who were participants in a changing society. They were a thoughtful group with diverse interests, both in and out of the classroom. Students and faculty, fulfilling the school's mission, shared their knowledge with those who sought it out. In this, we see how the roots of UMM's liberal arts vision grew from the seeds of the WCSA.

- James Horsman, '01, Balaton, Minnesota



Richard Williams (first row, third from left)

James Horsman is a political science and social science double major at UMM with a minor in history. In addition to working as a summer intern on a UMM history pamphlet that will celebrate UMM's 40th birthday, WCSA's 90th anniversary, and recognize the school's beginning as an American Indian Boarding School, James worked last summer for the Stevens County Historical Society. He plans to complete a secondary education licensure in social science at the end of next year. James is a 1996 graduate of Balaton High School.





The 59-year-old heating plant at UMM and the West Central School and Experiment Station, which dates back to 1911, was torn down this week. State Rep. Spooner announced the \$35,000 legislative appropriation for the plant: "During the first part of August 1911 the Regents awarded the contract...to F.A. Hancock of Morris." -University Relations News Release, August 5, 1970

## Remember, Renew and Celebrate UMM's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday! Homecoming 2000 October 6-8

### Reasons to attend:

- Renew acquaintances with friends and faculty
- See the new campus buildings and other improvements
- Meet current UMM students
- Take part in the host of events scheduled for the weekend

### Friday, October 6:

- 11:00 am-2:30 pm Alumni Career Fair, Student Center
- 2:30 pm Minority Student Program Roundtable, MRC
- 5:00-6:00 pm Alumni Art Exhibit Opening, HFA Gallery
- 6:00 pm Alumni Association Annual Meeting, Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Turtle Mountain Cafe
- 7:30 pm First Year Student Reunion Reception, Prairie Inn
- Stevens County Ambulance Service open house/tour of ambulance facilities

### Saturday, October 7:

- 8:30 am Science and Math Alumni Reunion Breakfast, Atrium, Science Bldg
- Capital Campaign Breakfast
- 9:00 am Cougar Quad Homecoming 4-Mile run (Details at: <http://www.mrs.umn.edu/~runclub/cougarquad/>)
- 9:30-11:00 am Science Building Tours
- 11:00 am Dedication of New Science Building, Atrium, Science Building
- 11:30 am Homecoming parade
- 11:30 am-1 pm Hog Roast Tailgate Party, Oyate Hall
- 1:30 pm Football: Cougars vs. Northern State, UMM Field
- 3:00 pm Bookstore is open, lower level, Science Building
- 4:00 pm Stevens County Ambulance staff and family Reunion



Snake-dance line, Homecoming 1962

- 4:30-6:30 pm Poolside Mingle, Prairie Inn
- 7:00-8:00 pm Phi Mu Delta "Chapter Meeting"
- 8:00 pm Cougar Hall of Fame Banquet, Oyate Hall

### Sunday, October 8

- 9:00 am Golf Tournament, Pomme de Terre Golf Course
- 2:00 pm Choir Concert

For information about Homecoming events, call Vivian Heltemes, (320) 589-6066.

If you prefer to stay in a local hotel, please make reservations early. Blocks of rooms have been reserved at the Best Western Prairie Inn (320)589-3030 and at the Super 8 (320)589-8888. Please call the hotel directly and mention that you are coming for "UMM Homecoming."

Please let us know if you plan to attend by:

E-mailing us: [alumni@mrs.umn.edu](mailto:alumni@mrs.umn.edu)

Faxing us: 320-589-6388

Phoning us: 320-589-6066

Check the web for attendee updates: [www.mrs.umn.edu/alumni](http://www.mrs.umn.edu/alumni)

Call one another! Let your friends know you'll be here!  
See you in October!

## Food Service, the Early Years/Evelyn and Eleanor Peterson

Do you remember the "Copper Kettle"? Have you ever had sheep sent to your residence hall floor via a dumb waiter? (Do you know what a dumb waiter is?)

If you're unfamiliar with the early days of the West Central School of Agriculture and the Morris campus food service, Evelyn and Eleanor Peterson can fill you in.

"We came to Morris from Fergus Falls where we were in the practical nursing program," tell the Petersons. They began work in food service for the WCSA in September 1948 (Eleanor as senior food service worker then operations supervisor; Evelyn as a senior food service worker). "We worked side by side until Eleanor was moved to Cougar Cafe in Edson Hall."

The Petersons remember living on campus in the back section of Food Service (or Dining Hall) for 17 school seasons - 14 girls on the third floor and seven kitchen employees on the second floor. Faculty, food service and farm hands lived on campus.

"Walter 'Slim' Hokanson was in charge of the dairy barn and Glendon Rose lived in a small house next to the hog operation, which he was in charge of," said the Petersons.

Later, as UMM grew, the residential space was changed to office

space, and the Dining Hall became what is known today as Behmler Hall.

Few employees had cars back then, depending on transportation from a few faculty and farm workers. Students, faculty, and food service and farm workers together went to dances, to basketball games and to parties in the P.E. Annex. "Or to the girl's dorm to watch TV," said the Petersons.

The Petersons remember serving many large banquets during the WCSA days - to 4-H groups, during Women's Week, to visiting bankers and on many other occasions. A "Priscilla Breakfast" was served, for example, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The Dining Hall was decorated for the holiday (as it often was for special holiday meals) and servers dressed in pilgrim attire.

Names of former colleagues come easily to Evelyn and Eleanor. They have memories of Miss Strinden, the dietician; Lillian Erdahl; Wes Gray; Les and Virginia Lindor; Nanna Felstrup; Herb Croom, and others too numerous to mention.

"The food service director, Larry Stillwell, wanted to name the new food service building 'The Copper Kettle,' but that never caught on."

There was fun and some pranks, too. "The farm hands used to send sheep and doves up the dumb



Evelyn and Eleanor Peterson

waiter (elevator for sending food from one floor to another) to our floor."

Today, Eleanor and Evelyn still work hard in their yard and in a home which they share. They fish, paint, embroider and travel. And, "oh yes...watch soap operas."

For two former employees who came to Morris "to stay only six months, which turned into 38 years," there are fond memories of WCSA and UMM. The Petersons have met former students in almost every state during their travels who remember them - even as far away as a restaurant in Los Angeles, Calif.

"We were a very happy WCSA family; we knew everyone's

joys, sadnesses, and the families of people who lived in our dorm."

The Petersons have kept their Morris campus ties by joining other food service retirees for annual September gatherings. And they walk regularly at the Regional Fitness Center.

- Judy Riley

### Do you remember?

Eleanor and Evelyn do...

- The root cellar behind Behmler Hall where Food Service is now
- Attending parties at the Home Ec House (near current location of HFA)
- Learning how to square dance from Virginia Lindor
- Salads, 15¢ an ounce at the Edson "Grill"





Blakely Hall (Senior Hall) was constructed in 1920 at a cost of \$75,000 as a boys' dormitory for the WCSA. Originally named Senior Hall, it was one of three residence halls on the campus designed by Clarence Johnston. It is noteworthy that in the '30s and '40s the rifle team had its range in the basement and the attic was a "smoker" for the residents where ping pong was played daily and there were occasional boxing matches held.

## Remembering Athletics/ Mark Fohl, Director of Athletics

This year we will optimistically begin the first year of the fifth decade of fielding athletic teams at UMM. Our goal is to renew the competitive tradition of Cougar teams of the past. Progress toward reaching that goal has already been made.

The past year was highlighted by the achievements of senior wrestler, Randy Rager, Pequot Lakes, Minn. Randy established a new record for career wins in NCAA Division II, and tied the record for career wins in all divisions with 162 victories.

Cougar Hall of Fame inductees for this year will be: Willis Kelly, Dale Mehr and Jim Williamson. They will be inducted at the Cougar Hall of Fame Banquet and Ceremony to be held during Homecoming weekend, 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, in Oyate Hall.

Willis Kelly, as the women's athletic director at UMM, was instrumental in beginning the women's athletic program at UMM and in formulating the Northern Sun Conference for women's athletics. The NSIC currently awards the Willis Kelly Award each year to the outstanding female senior athlete in the conference. Mehr and Williamson were outstanding athletes in the mid 1980s at UMM. Both were All-American football players. Williamson also received All-American recognition as a wrestler.

There will be a few new faces on the coaching staff for this year. Denise Sandifar, women's basketball coach, resigned early this summer to return to Indiana where she can be closer to her children. Tim Steinbach, head track coach and assistant football coach, resigned to accept a position at South Dakota State University, and John Griffin, sports information director and assistant football coach, has accepted a position at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania. Replacements for these coaches will be announced in the near future.



## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The official Sesquicentennial celebration, June 2000 to May 2001, commemorates the 150-year anniversary of the University of Minnesota's founding in Minneapolis (then St. Anthony), Minnesota. The University campuses of Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Rochester are proud to join the Twin Cities campus during this historic celebration.

The Sesquicentennial graphic (above) combines the traditional Minnesota M with a shield, which appeared in early versions of the University seal and is included in the current Board of Regents seal. The ribbon represents the celebratory nature of the event.

## Reflections/ Vivian (Helbling) Heltemes '77 Director of Alumni Relations

Ninety years of being a part of the University of Minnesota is a milestone worthy of a good time. Those of us planning events throughout this next year talk often about dates - when buildings were constructed, when events occurred, who came and left when, and grad years. We talk about individuals - those who worked so hard to bring the University to Morris, UMM alumni, faculty, staff, West Central School of Agriculture (WCSA) alumni, faculty and staff, donors - all who touched this place in some way.

As director of alumni relations and previously as director of fund development, I've had the opportunity to meet many of these individuals. It's given me a unique opportunity to hear stories about the campus and what a very special place it is to so many. But first, a brief overview of pre-UMM years...

In the late 1800s the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) established boarding schools throughout the United States. In 1887 the Sisters of Mercy started a contract boarding school in Morris. Students came from Indian reservations in North Dakota and northern Minnesota. The BIA took over the management of the Morris Industrial School in 1896. It closed in 1909.

Minnesota's Congressional delegation was aware of the Indian School closing. The property was conveyed to the State of Minnesota by an act of Congress "provided, that said lands and buildings shall be held and maintained by the State of Minnesota as an agricultural school, and that Indian pupils shall at all times be admitted to such school free of charge for tuition and on terms of equity with white pupils." This is true today; Native American students may attend UMM tuition free.

On October 3, 1910, the University of Minnesota West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station opened its doors as a boarding high school to 103 students living in the region. Students were at least 14 years old and had completed the eighth grade.

Studies included the traditional high school subjects of English, math, history and science as well as courses in agriculture and home economics. Student activities began almost as soon as classes started. They included inter-school debates, basket-

ball, class plays, choral activities, and student field days.

The school year typically began October 1 and ended in March. This allowed students to be home during spring planting and fall harvest. That did not necessarily mean schoolwork was over.

Students could earn additional credit by doing summer projects - anything from experimental plots in grain growing, farm account records, windbreaks and orchard planting and weed eradication to home canning and food preparation. Faculty members visited students to check their progress. The projects were a way of getting agricultural research into the hands of producers. Students taught their parents scientific principles learned in the classroom. Previously, the practice of farming was an art form handed down almost exclusively from father to son.

Just as UMM faculty and students speak at national conferences, write papers and books, and win prestigious awards, so did the

books in math, poetry and history. But the stories...

• WCSA was closed for 21 days during the influenza epidemic in 1918; there were 116 cases among the students and three died.

• During the 1940s Victory Gardens were grown. Armistice Day 1945 was observed on campus.

• Students who had permission from their parents were allowed to smoke. The attics of the dormitories were used (yes, legally) as 'smokers.' On October 5, 1949, the roof, attic and third floor of the Girls' Dormitory (now Camden Hall) burned; the fire was thought to be caused by a smoker in the attic. Cleo Henning Taylor '51 recalls all that remained of her personal items was the metal ring from a pillbox hat.

• "The Cow Palace" really was a livestock pavilion. Animals were brought in 'on the hoof' for class demonstrations in meat cutting and stock judging.

• Interesting things happen to students outside the classroom...

Like the time several sheep appeared in the girls' dorm. When Herb Croom '35 finally confessed to having pulled the prank, the faculty didn't believe him...he was a model student.

• There has not always been a chain



Homecoming: Aggies vs. Crookston, November 1938

WCSA faculty and students. Rex Varnum ('39) won a trip to the World Poultry Congress, the only delegate from a Minnesota Agricultural School. Prof. P.S. Jordan achieved national recognition doing research on western lambs. Prof. Roy Bridgford took an assignment to the National University of Seoul, Korea in 1956. Dorothy (Jesness) Durkee ('35) won first place nationally for an essay she'd written sponsored by the National Homemakers Institute. WCSA choirs toured throughout the state. Faculty authored

link fence around the cemetery. Many students 'cut across' to get downtown. More than one fell into an open grave while walking at night.

Though the WCSA was very different from UMM, history shows that there are similarities. The same sense of values: hard work, integrity, doing what's right, looking out for one another, and having fun remain important today as they were before.

If you have a story to share, please contact Vivian Heltemes, at (320) 589-6066.

## Profile

Profile is published three times a year by the Office of University Relations in cooperation with the Alumni Association and the Office of the Chancellor at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Submissions, questions or comments may be directed to Judy Riley. Address changes and questions or comments regarding alumni activities may be directed to Vivian Heltemes. For questions regarding financial contributions to UMM, contact Maddy Maxeiner. Visit the University of Minnesota, Morris Website at <http://www.mrs.umn.edu>.

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Judge Clayton A. Gay was for many years a leader in the development of interest in and concern for higher education facilities in west central Minnesota. As first president of the West Central Educational Development Association (WCEDA), Judge Gay devoted considerable time and energy to grouping forces to tell the story of educational needs in the area. It was in recognition of this contribution that the Board of Regents directed that the first new building on the Morris campus be dedicated in memory of Clayton A. Gay. The Clayton A. Gay residence hall was dedicated Sunday, February 20, 1966.

## A diverse history/The Minority Student Program

When Minority Student Program director, Bill Stewart, retired in 1998 after 25 years of UMM service, he said "I will miss the family-like atmosphere of the (Minority Student) program, the challenging and innovative activities which we sponsored to create an environment to make a difference and bring out the best in the people at UMM, and the Morris community at large."

Although the Minority Student Program had its beginnings in the fall of 1971, two years before Stewart's arrival in 1973, it really was not defined as a structured program with all the ingredients. Stewart created a structured program with which minority students could identify and interconnect with both academic and student personnel services components within the boundary of the UMM and entire university system.

The World Touch Cultural Heritage Week program was instituted in 1973. At the time of Stewart's retirement, WTCH week also celebrated its 25th year of providing racial and ethnic diversity programming, and has become a recognized and anticipated part of the yearly student cultural activities.

In 1995 the Gateway Program was added to the Minority Student Program. Founded by the late Dr. Joseph Latterell, professor of chemistry emeritus; Thomas McRoberts, associate director of continuing education; and Stewart, the program is now in its fifth year. The program's objective remains the same - to recruit, retain and graduate talented students of color at UMM.

The William Stewart Scholarship Fund was inaugurated upon the occasion of Bill's retirement to formally commemorate his contributions to the UMM campus and to provide an endowed source of financial awards for talented minority students.



Louie's Lower Level, the favorite campus meeting place, 1961

## Historic Fall 2000

**August 24-27**

New Student Orientation

**August 28**

Fall Semester Classes Begin

**September 6-27**

Gallery: Rural Arkansas Installation  
(opening: 4 p.m. September 6)

**September 7**

Chancellor Schuman Inauguration, 5 pm

**September 7-8**

University Board of Regents visit

**September 26**

Founder's Day Celebration, Campus

**October 3**

Annual Truman Driggs Lecture,  
HFA Recital Hall, 8:15 pm

**October 6-8**

Homecoming 2000 (schedule on page six)

**October 6-November 4**

Gallery: UMM Alumni Exhibit

**October 10**

First Annual Barber Lecture in Literature,  
HFA Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**November 15-December 12**

Gallery: Digits Chips & Images: Computer  
Arts (opening: 5 p.m. November 15)

**December 1-3**

Carol Concerts, Proscenium Theatre, 7:30 pm  
F-Sa; 2 pm Sa-Su (Dinner is optional  
preceding each performance.)

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